



SENATOR RUNNER'S WEEK IN REVIEW

A WEEKLY REVIEW THAT WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED AND UP-TO-DATE



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Celebrating the Founding of Our Great Nation

As America pauses this Fourth of July to commemorate its independence, I am reminded of our nation's humble beginning, when over 200 years ago a small coalition of farmers revolted against the greatest military power in the world and won their freedom.

It is important that we as Americans not take for granted the freedoms we enjoy in this country. We should never forget, however, the real cost of that freedom. This weekend, we observe Independence Day that reminds us of the price of freedom, and honor the sacrifices made by our brave men and women in the military.

Our fallen heroes that we honor on Independence Day were like you and me. They felt the same fears, while sharing in the hope and promise our nation provides. Independence Day is more than just the recognition of their supreme sacrifice while defending the American way. It is the acknowledgement and protection of the ideals they died for, so their sacrifice would not have been in vain.

These courageous Americans gave all of themselves for us. Much is made today of "giving" and "sacrifice" and "selflessness," and I hope we never let our children forget the true meaning of giving by those who purchased our freedom with their blood.

Further, it's unfortunate that many American youth today know little or nothing about the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. Our founding documents embody the virtues handed down from our Nation's forefathers; the core principles of our democracy and the very ideals our friends and family died to defend. The men and women we honor today have done their duty. It is our turn to commit ourselves to guarding and preserving those ideals.

The misguided political correctness that has escalated in this country purports that there is no right or wrong. Teaching our children and grandchildren about the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and the sacrifice our veterans made to defend them would prove the existence of right and wrong. We should further reinforce the importance of our flag -- the values it represents here and abroad.

News of the Week

[U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor Announces Retirement](#)

[Victorville Student Gets "F" for Mentioning God in a Term Paper](#)

[36th Assembly District Republican Party Central Committee Resolution Urges AV Hospital District to Stop Their Eminent Domain Plans](#)

[Legislature Working On Passing State Budget](#)

[CA Supreme Court Justice Janice Rogers Brown Leaves for New Position on Federal Appellate Court](#)

[New Mayor of Los Angeles Sworn In Today](#)

[Riverside Press Enterprise Editorial: Redistricting Needs to Be Kept Out of the Hands of Politicians](#)

[Press Release: Runner' Charter School Accountability Measure Passes Education Committee](#)

How do we honor those who gave everything they had to defend our freedom beyond our nation's borders? How do we honor those who helped to make America a safe haven in a troubled world? How do we honor those who stood in harm's way, using their lives as liberty's shield?

We honor them by placing upon their graves the very symbol of that freedom, the American Flag. The Flag is more than just stars and stripes; it is the fiber that intertwines all Americans. It is truly a symbol of, "one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Retired Army Major General Patrick Brady once said, "It has been the tissue for the tears of widows as they wept over the coffins of loved ones, the armor and the inspiration of soldiers in combat... the vault for the values of America, the symbol of our soul [and] our honor..."

Fly the American Flag in their honor – at home, at work, and throughout our neighborhoods – not just today, but every day. Repay a debt of gratitude to those who died so that we may be free.

Commit to teaching future generations of the sacrifice made by those fallen in battle, lest we repeat the unlearned lessons of history. Let them know that liberty does not come without a price. For we know that freedom is not free.

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